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E-Resources and their Applications in the Library

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Abstract

This study examines the numerous facets of electronic resources. Digital technology has made the application of previously-acquired knowledge more convenient, swift, and comfortable. This information gathered through the years must be utilised for future research, societal improvement, and growth. In remote regions, electronic resources are easily available.

Electronic resources overcome storage issues and manage the information deluge. Ink-on-paper sources are being digitised. The academic community is placing an increasing emphasis on electronic information sources. The emergence of technology has caused libraries to expand their collections. E-resources are the most prominent of these resources.

This paper provides an overview of these resources, outlines a few benefits and drawbacks, and provides a few website addresses.

Keywords: E-Resources, E-Books, E-Journals E-Newspaper and E-Thesis.

1. Introduction

The digitisation of content in print media has introduced an entirely new notion to all. An electronic resource is defined as a resource that requires computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, including full-text databases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products, and numerical, graphical, or time-based data, as a commercially available title that has been published with the intention of being sold. These may be distributed by CD-ROM, tape, the Internet, etc. These are more beneficial due to intrinsic capabilities for manipulation and searching, offering information access is less expensive than acquiring information resources, savings in storage and maintenance, etc., and electronic forms are sometimes the only option. The advances in scientific publication and the price strategies of publishers presented academic libraries with new challenges and opportunities when it came to purchasing and administering serials on a limited budget.

The library and information services of the twenty-first century are undergoing rapid change. With the rapid development of electronic publication, libraries are not only acquiring reading materials such as printed books and periodicals, but are also arranging for access to a variety of electronic learning resources. The utilisation of web resources and web as a tool is altering how consumers live and study. In its early stages, the World Wide Web was primarily used to push information and resources to users. However, the growth of Web 2.0 and the spread of open sources and the concept of shared usage have emphasised user-generated content and apps for sharing. This has accelerated the growth and appeal of electronic resources. E-Resources constitute a substantial component of the worldwide literature. They refer to electronic sources of information. E-books, E-journals, Databases, CDs/DVDs, E-conference proceedings, EReports, E-Maps, E-Pictures/Photographs, E-Manuscripts, E-Theses, E-Newspaper, Internet/Websites - Listservs,

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Newsgroups, Subject Gateways, USENET, FAQs, etc. are the various sorts of e-resources.

These may be distributed via CD-ROM/DVD, the Internet, etc. Access to e-resources is a service that helps library patrons locate e-Databases, e-Journals, e-Magazines, e-Books/ e-Audio/ e-Images, Data/ GIS, Digital Library Projects, Electronic Exhibitions, e Subject Guide, e-newsletters, E-conferences proceedings, and Web search tools on a variety of topics. Electronic books are advantageous due to their portability and the ability to store multiple books on a single hand-held device. Additionally, the published materials are accessible via an open access platform. This helps the poor obtain the necessary information for free, bridging the digital divide. They need not be concerned about licencing and usage of the data. In his fifth law review, Dr. S.R. Ranganathan asserts that the Library is a living organism. The library is not a book warehouse; it is a knowledge centre. Every reader visits the library in order to find a solution to his problem. The library should meet the requirements of the user community.

2. Definition:

Under AACR2, 2005, an electronic resource has been updated: Data and/or program(s) that have been encoded for usage by a computerized device. This material may necessitate the usage of a peripheral directly attached to a computerized device (for example, a CD-ROM drive) or a network connection (e.g., the Internet). This definition excludes electronic resources such as music CDs and DVDs that do not require the use of a computer.

The phrase "information services" is used to characterize all of the information products that a library provides across a computer network, according to the Glossary of Library and Information Technology.

"E-Resources" are defined by Wikipedia as "information (often in the form of a file) that can be stored in the form of electrical signals, generally on a computer; Internet-accessible information."

3. Review of Literature

To set the scene for the study, a review of the literature was first undertaken.

Walmiki and Ramakrishnegowda (2009) examined the results of a survey conducted to determine the e-resource holdings at Karnataka state university libraries.There have been efforts to understand the university libraries' Internet capabilities, acquisition of CD-ROM databases and online resources, participation in consortium activities, and e-resources accessible through such consortium activities.
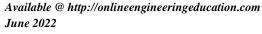
Jamali, Nicholas, and Huntington (2005) outlined the findings of a number of studies that employed log analysis to investigate the use and readers of electronic journals. The focus of these papers was on the formats preferred by end users, and it was established that PDF is preferred over HTML.

Chisenga (2004) A review of the use of ICTs in ten African Public Library Services was accepted. Even though the majority of libraries had Internet connectivity, only a small fraction offered web-based information services to their patrons. The study, however, identifies four barriers to the usefulness of electronic resources in these libraries: insufficient planning; insufficient or unreliable financial support; insufficient use of the Internet to provide users with information services; and insufficient preparation of users for new Information and Communication Technology services.

4. Need of E-Resources

E-Resources allow the librarian to better serve the user community. The few significant points are listed below;

- To provide access to an information source to multiple users.
- E-resources are readily searchable.
- These are easily accessible to the user.
- These assets can be stored in vast quantities.
- Time spent using electronic resources.
- Analyzes the reason respondents use e-resources; • Is familiar with the various types of e-resources commonly used by respondents
- To collect, store, and organise information in digital format. • To promote the efficient and cost-effective delivery of information to all users.
- To encourage cooperative efforts to reduce costs and share investments in research resources, computing infrastructure, and communication networks.

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5. Types of E-Resources

SI No	Forms of E-Resources	Description
1	Electronic Books	A book that, rather than being printed on paper, is available in digital format and may be read or watched on a computer or other portable electronic device.
2	Electronic Journal	A library may collect an exceptionally important electronic journal for its sole collection. An electronic journal would supply the vast bulk of data innovation.
3	Electronic Newspapers	A digital newspaper is too common to be posted as an online newspaper or web news on the Internet or World Wide Web.
4	Electronic Magazines	A publication that is distributed electronically. One application of information technology is e-magazines.
5	Indexing and Abstracting Databases	These are the reference sources that, together with abstracts of the articles, provide bibliographic information on the journals.
6	Full Text Database	The amount of databases available on the network is now available. They are either free or charged. Electronic databases are a structured compilation of data on a specific topic or multidisciplinary topic; data can be searched and obtained electronically in digital databases.
7	Reference Database	Numerous digital dictionaries, almanacs, and encyclopedias are accessible over the Internet.
8	Statistical Database	This sort of database contains statistical information that is beneficial to society as a whole.
9	Image Collection	Due to the advancement of digital photography, this kind of database has been developed.
10	Multimedia Products	Due to the development of digital photography, this type of database is developed.
11	Electronic Thesis	Electronic versions of doctoral dissertations and theses are included in these databases.
12	Electronic Clipping	E-principal clipping's purpose is to review and assess fresh content.
13	Electronic Patents	They represent the government's exclusive right to utilise an invention for a specified time period.
14	Electronic Standards	Written definition, limit rule, approved and monitored for complains by authoritative agency.

6. Utilities of E-Resources

Printed reading materials and information sources are being replaced by electronic alternatives. Several of these E-Information services are described in detail and briefly discussed below:

SI NO	E-Information services	Abbreviations
1	Current Awareness Service	CAS
2	Selective dissemination of Information	SDI
3	E-Document Delivery Services	EDDS
4	Online Public Access Catalogue	OPAC
5	Mobile Libraries	M-Libraries

7. Selections of E-Resources

The selection of E-Resources should be based on user demand and necessity. As a librarian, the following steps should be considered during selection:

- To know the needs of users.
- To know content and scope of e-resources.

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- To examine quality of the e-resources and search facility among them.
- To maintain cost effectiveness.
- To check either subscription based or web based at the time of purchasing.
- To check the license copy.
- To evaluate educational support and training.
- To check the compatibility and technical support.

8. Uniqueness of E-Resources

- Access to every document by anyone; from any where
- Retrieval of e-resources is quicker than print resources
- The users can be guided to the document by providing a link.
- Easy to search the text
- The collection available in electronic format can be of any media.
- Ownership not that important
- In electronic environment the interaction between user and librarian is frequent.
- No defined user group
- The software can help the users in retrieving the desired information; hardly intermediate can help user

9. Impact of E-Resources on Library and Information Services

Internet e-resources are reinventing both the library system and the way we view information sources. It has simplified and accelerated the acquisition of information sources. Librarians require rapid access to books, periodicals, and electronic publications. Internet access is a straightforward and effective method for accessing and updating the documentation and interface of every library's catalogue. The request for Inter Library Loan (ILL) can be sent via email, and the photocopies can be scanned and emailed after being sent via postal fax. The evolution of information technology and the proliferation of Web environments have a profound impact on user information-use behaviours. The workflows from acquisitions to user services and the life cycle of electronic resources differ significantly from those of print resources due to the fact that electronic resources can be accessed without physically holding the objects. As libraries amass ever-larger collections of electronic resources, efficiently managing them becomes a formidable obstacle. Rapid growth has occurred in the number of electronic journals, citation databases, and full-text aggregations held by the majority of libraries. Managing these electronic resources entails providing library patrons with simple means to locate and access them and equipping library staff with the means to keep track of them.

In recent years, the majority of Library resources have been made available in electronic formats, such as e-journals, e-books, and databases. Due to its advantages over print resources, libraries are subscribing individually or collectively to electronic resources rather than print ones. Recent studies indicate that users prefer electronic journals over printed ones. In recent years, licencing of electronic resources has significantly increased, and libraries have struggled to control this information in paper files, integrated library systems, and separate databases kept on local computers or the network.

10. Advantages of E-Resources

- Electronic publishing may be less expensive than paper publishing.
- Electronic resources can be created in any file type, including text, audio, video, and images.
- Electronic resources are accessible 24 hours a day and conserve library space.
- The E-resources search is simple due to the interface's user-friendliness.
- They provide users with faster, more convenient access from home, campus, or library at any time. A sophisticated search and retrieval system permits access to electronic resources.
- The content can be reproduced, forwarded, and altered, posing a threat to copyright protection and the maintenance of authenticity.
- The electronic environment permits the library to collaborate with other libraries and utilise their resources as well.

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- The dial-up process allows those with limited library access time to access the libraries effectively.
- The libraries offer access to a vast quantity of information resources. The focus of libraries is on providing access to primary information.

11. Issues of E-Resources

- **Licensing:** E-Resources require a licence from the publisher in order to be used in a library.
- **IPR:** Because electronic resources are so easily reproduced and distributed, librarians need to be vigilant regarding intellectual property rights (Intellectual Property Rights)
- **Standards of metadata**: There are standards for the description of metadata, such as MARC21, but the e-resources that are now accessible on the market do not standardise by MARC21.
- **Low budget**: Since libraries are not-for-profit organisations, they are unable to make the expensive financial investment required to purchase and maintain expensive technological resources.
- **Skill manpower**: It is necessary for the personnel to possess the appropriate abilities in order to manage the electronic collection; nevertheless, most libraries suffer from a lack of skilled manpower.
- **Lack of infrastructure**: Components of information and communication technology provide assistance for electronic collection.

12, Conclusion

The deployment of e-resources is beneficial for ensuring comprehensive and precise information. The e-resources offer multiple search options to the user and are managed by the library. Using e-resources allows the library to conserve space and save users' time. E-resources are beneficial for libraries and other users of society who are hungry for a diversity of information from around the world. The current availability of information and communication technology services has resulted in significant alterations to library operations. Utilization of electronic items increases user knowledge, which is advantageous for technocrats. E-mails and RSS alerts convey the information necessary for a person to become aware of the user.

Infrastructure enhancements, such as a high-speed network, Wi-Fi on campus, and LAN portals at multiple rights-to-use sites on campus and in departments, can be implemented to improve the effectiveness of the practise.

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